

## WE CLAIM

154. A communication system comprising:

a public switched telephone (PST) network;

an internet protocol (IP) network;

a private branch exchange (PBX) with a telephone coupled thereto to route a telephone call over the PST network; and

a voice gateway coupled to the PBX and to the IP network to route a telephone call over the IP network, the voice gateway configured to support a plurality of numbering plans.

155. A communication system according to claim 154 wherein the voice gateway is coupled to the PBX via a call status-call control link to control operation of the telephone.

156. A communication system according to claim 154 further comprising a directory coupled to the voice gateway, and wherein the voice gateway is configured to access the directory and to control the telephone to support the plurality of numbering plans.

157. A communication system according to claim 154 wherein the plurality of numbering plans supported includes at least one numbering plan from a group consisting of:

a uniform numbering plan (UNP);

an enterprise numbering plan (ENP); and

a PSTN numbering plan; and

a direct trunk group access code.

158. A method of operating a communication system to route a telephone call over an internet protocol (IP) network, the communication system having a plurality of voice gateways coupled to the IP network, each of the plurality of voice gateways identified by an IP address, the method comprising steps of:

accepting a number entered via a calling telephone by a user in  
accordance with one of a plurality of numbering plans;  
translating the number into the IP address of one of the plurality of voice  
gateways; and  
5 routing the telephone call from the calling telephone to a called telephone.

159. A method according to claim 158 wherein the communication system further  
comprises a gateway database coupled to the plurality of voice gateways, the gateway  
database having the IP addresses of the plurality of voice gateways stored therein, and  
wherein the step of translating the number comprises steps of:

accessing the gateway database with one of the plurality of voice  
gateway; and  
associating the number with an IP address in the gateway database.

160. A method according to claim 159 wherein the step of associating the number with  
an IP address comprises the step of manipulating a digit of the number.

161. A method according to claim 158 wherein the step of translating the number  
includes the step of translating a number from at least one numbering plan from a group  
consisting of:

a uniform numbering plan (UNP);  
an enterprise numbering plan (ENP); and  
a PSTN numbering plan; and  
a direct trunk group access code.

162. A method according to claim 158 the step of routing the telephone call comprises  
the step of controlling the plurality of voice gateways to route the telephone call from a  
first voice gateway over the IP network to a second voice gateway.

163. A method according to claim 158 wherein the communication system further  
comprises a plurality of private branch exchanges (PBXs) coupled to a public switched

telephone (PST) network, each of the plurality of PBXs coupled to one of the plurality of voice gateways through a call status-call control link, and wherein the step of routing the telephone call further comprises the step of controlling a private branch exchange connected to the second voice gateway to route the telephone call to the called telephone.

164. A method according to claim 163 wherein the called telephone is coupled to the private branch exchange through the PST network, and wherein the step of routing the telephone call further comprises the step of controlling the PBX connected to the second voice gateway to route the telephone call over the PST network to the called telephone.